Administrator,

I recently sent five brief project reports to Ryan Jackson on short-term EPA PFAS cross-Agency activities being coordinated by the Office of the Science Advisor. We look forward to discussing these activities, as well as other Program- and Region-specific short-term projects, at our next monthly PFAS meeting with him.

Hot Issues

ORD meeting with agencies in North Carolina to discuss treatment of PFASs in drinking water, August 15: At the request of the Region 4 Acting Deputy Director of the Water Protection Division, ORD scientists will participate in a call with representatives from local governments in North Carolina to discuss treatment options for GenX and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) at drinking water utilities in Cape Fear, NC. Issues to be discussed are the appropriate treatment processes for GenX and whether or not pilot studies at North Carolina sites are warranted. Participants on the call will include Deputy Director of the Division of Water Resources, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality; Pender County (NC) Health Director; and Executive Director of the Cape Fear Public Water Utility. This follows a call ORD participated in on August 9th with OCSPP, OW, and Region 4 set up by Senator Burr's staff with local officials in North Carolina, including the Mayor of Wilmington and a number of representatives from local county commissioners' offices. ORD discussed our current efforts to support NC DEQ and that our analysis of their samples has shown a decrease in GenX over the past few weeks. We also mentioned that we have found other compounds beyond GenX in the samples, but that we are still in the process of analyzing these.

New cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) for NRMRL-patented lead tap sampling device: ORD has signed a CRADA with Southern Design Services, Inc., for research and development of a newly-patented tap sampling device. As reported on July 26, ORD scientists were awarded a provisional patent for their lead exposure assessment device. The goal of the CRADA is to jointly develop a point-of-use device to be used as a sampling approach to assess lead and other contaminant exposure from drinking water in premise plumbing.

EPA's 2010 IRIS assessment of chloroprene: In response to a Request for Correction (RfC) regarding EPA's 2010 IRIS assessment of chloroprene, a chemical used in the production of neoprene products, ORD, OAQPS, R6 and OEI met August 7, 2017 to develop a path forward in evaluating the Request and developing an Agency response. The RfC process requires an Agency response by late October 2017, to include extensive review within EPA and by OMB.

TSCA Support: ORD continues to work with OPPT on the successful implementation of TSCA. ORD staff are assisting with the development of the approach and outline for the alternative toxicity testing strategy document to be released in June 2018. We also continue to work on developing the chemical information database and visualization tools needed for chemical prioritization. ORD staff are involved in several discussions with OPPT staff to improve estimates of chemical exposure used for chemical prioritization and evaluation. Discussions focus on improving exposure estimates for chemicals in consumer products, occupational exposures, and ambient exposures.

Upcoming public events

ITRC Board and Maine DEP Commissioner to visit ORD's Atlantic Ecology Division: ORD will host the summer meeting of the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) Board, a subgroup of the

Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS), at ORD's Atlantic Ecology Division in Narragansett, RI, August 15-17. On August 17, Maine DEP Commissioner Paul Mercer and Acting Regional Administrator Deb Szaro will join the ITRC Board members to tour the EPA facility and learn about ongoing research efforts—including an early warning indicator system using historical and current satellite data to detect algal blooms in U.S. freshwater systems, the Watershed Management Optimization Support Tool, an easy-to-use process for assessing restoration sites using non-monetary benefit indicators, and mercury predictions for New England lakes and loons.

SAB peer review meeting for ETBE and TBA: On August 15-17, the Science Advisory Board Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee will hold a peer review meeting on the draft IRIS assessments for ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) and tert-butanol (TBA).

Village Blue Project highlighted on EPA Office of Water tour in Baltimore
On August 17, EPA OW will lead a tour in the Baltimore area focused on projects associated with the Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership for representatives from the City of Baltimore, EPA HQ, EPA Region 3, the U.S. Department of Interior, and the State of Maryland. The tour will include a site visit to EPA's Village Blue Project during a segment on the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore's Healthy Harbor initiative. Village Blue is located along the Jones Falls River near Baltimore Harbor, and provides real-time water quality monitoring data to the Baltimore community. The project complements work already being done by state and local organizations to make Baltimore Harbor swimmable and fishable by 2020.

Overview of the Risk-Related Services from the Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center: On August 9, ORD delivered a presentation titled "Overview of the Risk-Related Services from the Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center" at the OLEM Human Health Regional Risk Assessors Forum (OHHRRAF) training conference in Philadelphia. The presentation provided an overview of the risk-related services available from the Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center (STSC), including a description of PPRTVs, the nomination of chemicals for future PPRTVs, and the breadth of work available through the STSC Hotline.

14th Annual EPA Drinking Water Workshop: Small Systems Challenges and Solutions: EPA's free annual workshop will be held **August 22-24** in Cincinnati, OH. The workshop is a partnership between ORD, OW, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and provides attendees with in-depth information and training on various solutions and strategies for handling small drinking water system challenges. As of August 7, there are 284 people registered.

Last week Highlights
Successful Launch of Citizen Science App: Nearly 900 new users have downloaded ORD's Smoke Sense [a free citizen science mobile app] since it became available for [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/air-research/smoke-sense-study-citizen-science-project-using-mobile-app"] on Android devices July 31. More than 2000 visitors have visited the site. Smoke Sense reports the extent to which wildfire smoke exposure affects health and productivity and offers health risk communication strategies that improve public health outcomes.

Tire Crumb Study receives OMB approval: On August 2, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the Information Collection Request for the Tire Crumb Study Exposure Characterization Study, which allows field work to begin. The EPA and CDC/(ATSDR research team is currently determining an updated timeline for the study based on OMB's approval, and when results will be available. This activity is part of [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/federal-research-recycled-tire-crumb-

used-playing-fields"], which is being co-led by EPA, CDC/ATSDR, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Scientists Collaborate with Connecticut
ORD scientists are working with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to study emerging contaminants in the Long Island Sound and major rivers. Research cruises are underway as part of a collaborative effort to assess the distribution and fate of newer classes of contaminants. Results of the surveys will fill knowledge gaps on potential ecosystems impacts resulting from contaminants of emerging concern in coastal waters.

U.S.-China Scientific Cooperation Exchanges Program: On August 2, ORD's National Center for Environmental Research hosted the China's Ministry of Agriculture Delegation Team for U.S.-China Scientific Cooperation Exchanges Program on Sustainable Development of Water Resources for Agriculture. ORD facilitated scientific research discussions on potential research collaborations and scientific information exchanges on agricultural water resource conservation and management; water reuse and recycling; stormwater harvesting, and wastewater treatment technologies; sustainable ecological farming practices; agro-technical extension services to agricultural communities; and building resilience against emerging environmental challenges in agriculture.

Oil and Gas Development in the Appalachian Basin (National Priorities): EPA [HYPERLINK "https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncer_abstracts/index.cfm/fuseaction/recipients.display/rfa_id/625/records_per_page/ALL"] to lead a trans-disciplinary team of epidemiologist, hydrogeologist, water engineers, risk assessors, exposure scientists, and environmental health scientists to investigate any positive or negative holistic total environmental impacts of oil and gas activities to nearby community residents. The project applies innovative research methods of quantitative drinking water vulnerability index, linking community activities to potential health outcomes via plausible chemical exposure pathways.

Aquifer Recharge Pilot Project in Oklahoma: On August 7, ORD scientists met with representatives from the City of Ada, OK, East Central University's Oka' Institute, the Chickasaw Nation, and Oklahoma's DEQ and Water Resources Board to learn about the City of Ada's proposed approach for investigating best practices for enhanced aquifer recharge in the City's wellfield and springs. The Chickasaw Nation and East Central University have asked ORD scientists at EPA's Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center to participate in the proposed research. The goal is to enhance base flow resources for times of water scarcity in the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer, which is a designated sole-source aquifer. This was a first step in the permit application process for a pilot program recently announced by the state "Limited-Scale Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Pilot Projects" (pursuant to 27A O.S. § 2-6-110).

Working with Region 7 and Missouri to Address Sewage Overflow Issues: On August 4, the Region 7 Acting Regional Science Liaison and ORD scientists met with Region 7, the City of St. Louis and the Missouri Department of Conservation to discuss how EPA can help the city develop a watershed plan to address critical sewer overflow issues. They discussed ORD's combined sewer overflow research and related activities at the University of Texas in Austin's [HYPERLINK "https://news.utexas.edu/2016/11/03/epa-selects-ut-austin-for-water-infrastructure-center"]. The Center, established by an EPA grant of $3.9 million, develops open source water infrastructure models and shares tools and research with local communities.